

PROMOTOR(A)/COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



PROGRAMA PARA CAPACITACIÓN Y CERTIFICACIÓN DEL PROMOTOR(A)/TRABAJADOR(A) COMUNITARIO DE SALUD

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD DE TEXAS**



PROMOTOR(A)/COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Certification of the First Six Promotoras at the Texas Second Annual Community Health Workers Workshop Le Meridien Hotel, Dallas, Texas Friday, December 6, 2002

On Friday, December 6, 2002, the Promotor(a)/Community Health Worker (CHW) Training and Certification Program Advisory Committee participated in the Texas Second Annual Community Health Worker Workshop held at Le Meridien Hotel in Dallas, Texas. The workshop provided opportunities for the Texas Department of Health (TDH), Public Health Promotion (PHP) Program, to present on the progress of the Promotor(a)/CHW Training and Certification Program and for the Advisory Committee to rollout the certification phase by awarding its first six CHW certifications.

The workshop session began with a panel presentation on the Promotor(a)/CHW Training and Certification Program moderated by Cecilia Berrios, Community Health Promotion Specialist, in the TDH PHP Program.



TDH Staff Cecilia Berrios presents overview of the training and certification program.

Advisory Committee Chair Edna Dougherty covered the significance of training and certification for promotoras and Texas communities.



The panel was comprised of three Advisory Committee members: Edna Dougherty, Oscar Munoz, and Lorenza Zuniga.



Dr. Darryl M. Williams, Executive Director, Office of Border Health, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, El Paso, Texas, makes introductory remarks regarding the CHW presentation and the Texas experience.

After Ms. Dougherty's presentation, Advisory Committee member Lorenza Zuniga, a community health worker, provided her perspective on the training and certification of promotoras. She emphasized how certification will help promotores(as) achieve a more widely recognized role in the health-related workforce in Texas.



Advisory Committee member Lorenza Zuniga presents a community health worker's perspective.

The panel presentation continued with Mr. Oscar Muñoz informing attendees how promotoras have the trust of the community and how they provide a bridge for communication and access to public health services—a critical link between agencies and people.



Advisory Committee member Oscar Muñoz presents an employer's perspective.

After Mr. Muñoz's presentation, the audience was engaged in a questions and answers discussion.



The audience listened and asked questions.

After the presentation and panel discussion, the Advisory Committee held their official monthly meeting. Part of the meeting was devoted to review of the CHW certification packets that the TDH Public Health Promotion Program had assembled. The CHW certification packets were provided to attendees interested in applying for certification. The Advisory Committee members conducted three afternoon orientation sessions to explain the materials in the packets.



TDH Public Health Promotion Program Director Donna C. Nichols provides an overview of the CHW application packet to the Advisory Committee.



Advisory Committee members review the promotor application packet in preparation for the afternoon orientation sessions.

With business concluded, the Advisory Committee adjourned and went to the luncheon where CHW certification ceremonies were held. At the end of lunch, the moderator introduced Ms. Debra Stabeno, M.P.H., TDH Deputy Commissioner for Programs, who was representing Commissioner of Health Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D., M.P.H. She discussed the public health priorities set by the Texas Department of Health and how promotoras can play a key role in meeting those priorities. For example, community health workers can help

- Increase immunization rates in their communities and
- Educate communities about nutrition and physical activity.



TDH Deputy Commissioner for Programs Debra Stabeno, M.P.H., speaks to the importance of community health workers in Texas communities.

At the conclusion of Ms. Stabeno's speech, Ms. Stabeno and Ms. Edna Dougherty recognized and awarded CHW certificates to six community health workers. The six certified community health workers were:

- Graciela Camarena
- Maria Teresa de Llano
- Genoveva Martinez
- Fidelia Onsurez
- Trinidad Soto
- Lorenza Zuniga



Advisory Committee Chair Edna Dougherty makes introductory remarks during the award ceremony.



Advisory Committee member Graciela Camarena receives her CHW certificate.



Advisory Committee member Maria Teresa de Llano receives her CHW certificate.



Genoveva Martinez receives her CHW certificate.



Advisory Committee member Lorenza Zuniga receives her CHW certificate.



Fidelia Onsurez receives her CHW certificate.



The first six certified community health workers receive congratulatory applause from everyone present.



Trinidad Soto receives her CHW certificate.

Having concluded this portion of the program, special recognition was given to the TDH Public Health Promotion Program by Health Education Training Centers Alliance of Texas (HETCAT) and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso for co-sponsoring this workshop in Dallas. After a few closing remarks, members of the Advisory Committee conducted three orientation sessions, which explained the contents and process for applying to become a certified CHW. Approximately 75 persons attended the three sessions.



Advisory Committee member Dr. Elizabeth Kelly provides an orientation on the CHW application packet in English to attendees at one of the three sessions held.



Advisory Committee member Graciela Camarena provides an orientation on the CHW application packet in Spanish.

This concluded the workshop portion that was held on Friday, December 6th, amid an atmosphere of excitement, intense emotion, and elation over the state's first certified community health workers. In addition, about 125 packets were distributed for CHWs to apply for certification. This is an initial step in enhancing the community health workforce in Texas.